

**FY2016 U.S. Forest Service
Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI)**

Request for Proposals (RFP)

Proposals are due by 5:00 PM Eastern, June 21, 2016

Background and Purpose

The interagency Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) targets improvements to the most significant environmental problems within the Great Lakes basin. Through an agreement with EPA, the U.S. Forest Service has received funding to support projects that implement strategic, priority actions within Forest Service authorities to restore, protect, and maintain the Great Lakes ecosystem. Successful projects will address invasive species, nonpoint source pollution impacts on nearshore health, and habitat restoration activities that impact water quality in priority watersheds or those that drain to identified Areas of Concern.¹ Available funds are distributed across three specific program areas:

Program Area – Measurable Outcome Metric	Estimated Funding	GLRI Focus Areas
1. Mitigate Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Impacts – Acres treated for tree canopy restoration with non-host species in urban EAB quarantine areas to enhance and restore biodiversity and water quality.	\$1,200,000	Invasive Species
2. Reduce Runoff from Degraded Sites through Green Infrastructure – Gallons of stormwater runoff avoided from degraded sites through improved green infrastructure using trees and other vegetation.	\$1,400,000	Nonpoint Source Pollution Impacts on Nearshore Health
3. Enhance Wetland Filtration – Acres treated in planting native trees and diverse vegetation to improve coastal wetland functionality.	\$1,100,000	Habitats and Species

Eligibility

State agencies, Tribal communities, nonprofit organizations, academic partners, and municipalities are eligible for GLRI funding within the Great Lakes Basin of Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and New York. **Eligible applicants are encouraged to consult with their appropriate State Forester or Tribal administrator (for federally recognized tribes) to develop and submit proposals.**

The Great Lakes Watershed is defined as those areas within the United States (surface, overflow, or groundwater) that drain into either Lake Superior, Lake Michigan², Lake Huron, Lake Erie, or Lake Ontario, or drain into the St. Lawrence River west of where the International Boundary line leaves the river. A map of the Great Lakes watershed is provided in appendix A; eligible counties with lands in the watershed are listed in appendix b.

To be successful, proposals must conform to the **authorities** of the [Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978](#) (as amended) and specifically Section 2102 Rural forestry assistance and Section 2105 Urban and Community Forestry Assistance. Only nonconstruction activities are eligible, and projects must take place only on non-Federal lands. No matching funds are required; however, the ability to demonstrate partnerships and leverage funds will be an important consideration when proposals are reviewed.

¹ [Great Lakes Areas of Concern](#)

² In Illinois, the Great Lakes Basin includes portions of Cook and Lake Counties as illustrated on the attached map.

Minimum Requirements

- All proposed projects must lie entirely within the Great Lakes watershed.
- Proposals must address:
 - A single Program Area (see table on page 1)
 - Linkage to a specific [Lakewide Action and Management Plan](#) or specific [Remedial Action Plans for target Areas of Concern](#)
 - Linkage to the [State Forest Action Plan](#) or Tribal Forest Management Plan
 - A local watershed plan
- Proposals must show capacity to be fully implemented in the time proposed (2 years preferred)
- Proposals must include a site location map generated and attached by applicants using the [GLRI Project Mapper](#) tool.
- Landscape tree planting proposals must follow [Guidance for Landscape Tree Planting](#). Proposals must identify the site location and number and size of proposed planting stock, and include a 3-year maintenance plan.
- Grant recipients must provide photo documentation of funded projects and environmental progress at appropriate phases and appropriate illustrations, diagrams, charts, graphs, and maps to show results.
- Projects must post a visible project identification sign, erected as appropriate at each on-the-ground project, that includes project information and purpose, GLRI reference, and Federal agencies involved.
- Awardees will be required to comply with all Federal laws and regulations related to the completion of projects as stated in the letter of award.

Evaluation Criteria (Relative Weight)

- *Addresses nearshore water quality issues in the Great Lakes watershed or in subwatersheds draining into the Great Lakes* (30%) – Scope of work outlines the methods used and specifically addresses project benefits and impacts on water quality and species diversity as part of a local watershed plan within the Great Lakes basin.
- *Addresses priority landscapes* (30%) – Provides information on a specific site location and its connection to a target water body, including reference to local watershed plans and links to the State Forest Action Plan, Great Lakes Action Plan, relevant Lakewide Action and Management Plan, and Remedial Action Plans. Priority will be given to project proposals with clear connection to State or Tribal priorities, to subwatersheds identified in existing plans, and to those projects that drain to designated [Areas of Concern](#). For those projects submitted to mitigate EAB impacts, priority will be given to proposals for work within communities that have adopted an EAB management plan.
- *Measurable results/outcomes expected* (30%) – Includes specific units of work to be accomplished (number of trees planted) and standard estimated outcomes contributing to improved water quality (acres treated or gallons of runoff avoided). Target tree canopy cover on EAB projects should equal or exceed levels prior to infestation. Federal cost per acre treated or gallon avoided will be a factor in rating your proposal.
- *Partnerships and other considerations* (10%) – Projects should identify partners and include letters of commitment, including specific quantitative or qualitative contributions towards project planning and implementation. If the project has the potential to provide knowledge or technology transfer (defined as the sharing of knowledge, tools, and innovations for practical application), please detail this potential.

Program Area Information FY2016 U.S. Forest Service Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI)

Program Area 1. Mitigate Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Impacts

GLRI funds for this program area are intended to restore tree canopy lost to infestation by emerald ash borer. Replanting is critical to maintaining healthy, functioning tree canopy cover that will reduce and cool stormwater flow, reduce soil erosion and nutrient runoff (e.g. phosphorus), and protect water quality. Priority will be given to proposals for work within priority watersheds identified in existing plans and those that drain to designated [Areas of Concern](#). Further, priority will be given to project proposals for work within communities that have adopted an EAB management plan (contact the State Forester for more information and examples). Emphasis will be on working with communities and residents to mitigate EAB infestation by restoring diverse urban tree canopy cover in urban and community areas. Target tree canopy cover should equal or exceed levels prior to infestation.

EAB mitigation projects are eligible **only in EAB quarantined counties** (appendixes C and D). Projects will be rated competitively, partially on the Federal cost per acre treated (conversion factor average 100 trees/acre unless otherwise specified).

Great Lakes Action Plan II:

Focus Area 2: Invasive Species

Objective 2.2: Control established invasive species.

Commitment: Implement control projects for GLRI-targeted invasive species.

Measure of Progress: Number of acres treated by GLRI-funded projects (conversion factor average 100 trees/acre unless otherwise specified)

Program Area 2. Reduce Runoff from Degraded Sites through Green Infrastructure

GLRI funds for this program area are intended to create or improve green infrastructure through the planting of trees and other vegetation as part of a local management strategy to maintain and enhance urban watersheds. Planting native and site-appropriate trees and other vegetation will capture and slow the flow of untreated runoff and contribute to filtering out sediments, nutrients, toxic contaminants, pathogens, and other pollutants prior to entering Great Lakes tributaries and nearshore waters. Federal authorities for this program do not include construction activities or laying foundations for permanent structures. Priority will be given to proposals for work within priority watersheds identified in existing plans and those that drain to designated [Areas of Concern](#).

Projects will be rated competitively, partially on the Federal cost per gallon of urban runoff avoided (conversion factor average 59 gallons per tree/year unless otherwise specified).

Great Lakes Action Plan II:

Focus Area 3: Nonpoint Source Pollution Impacts on Nearshore Health

Objective 3.2: Reduce untreated runoff from urban watersheds.

Commitment: Implement watershed management projects in urban areas that have adopted a watershed strategy.

Measure of Progress: Projected volume (in gallons) of untreated urban runoff avoided by GLRI-funded projects over the first 5 years (conversion factor is 59 gallons per tree/year).

Program Area 3. Enhance Wetlands Filtration

GLRI funds for this program area are intended to restore the structure and function of coastal wetlands and lake-affected riparian areas through planting of native trees and diverse vegetation. Planting native trees and other vegetation will enhance wildlife habitat and filter out sediments, nutrients, toxic contaminants, pathogens, and other pollutants prior to entering the lakes. Wetland function and ecosystem benefits must be monitored and reported by partner organizations. Activities may include removal of invasive plant species and minimal site disturbance in preparation for planting, with the goal of creating woody wetlands and lake riparian areas with >70 percent canopy coverage. Proposals should include a site restoration and maintenance plan that extends beyond the life of the grant.

Priority will be given to proposals for work in State and locally protected (publicly accessible) coastal wetland and lake riparian areas identified by applicants on the [GLRI Project Mapper](#). Successful proposals will show that their project will impact coastal wetlands identified on these maps or in other lake-affected riparian areas. Proposals must include an attached PDF or screen shot of the map showing impacted wetlands and other key features.

Projects will be rated competitively, partially on the Federal cost per acre treated (conversion factor average 200 trees/acre unless otherwise specified).

Great Lakes Action Plan II:

Focus Area 4: Habitats and Species

Objective 4.1: Restore and enhance Great Lakes coastal wetlands.

Commitment: Implement projects that improve coastal wetland functionality and critical habitat for native species.

Measure of Progress: Number of acres of coastal wetlands enhanced (conversion factor is 200 trees/acre unless otherwise specified as a proxy for enhanced wetland).

Grant Limits

Submit proposals separately under each of the three listed program areas.

Program Area and Limits of Requested Federal Share/Project	Minimum	Maximum
1. Mitigate Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Impacts	\$50,000	\$100,000
2. Reduce Runoff from Degraded Sites	\$50,000	\$200,000
3. Enhance Wetland Filtration	\$50,000	\$200,000

How to Submit an Electronic Application to the U.S. Forest Service through Grants.gov

Submit all applications for this GLRI funding opportunity through [grants.gov](#). Search for Grant Opportunity Number **USDA-FS-2016-GLRI**. [Grants.gov](#) has a [full set of instructions on how organizations can apply for opportunities](#) on its Web site.

Use [grants.gov](#) to download the application package, instructions, and forms that are incorporated in the instructions, which allows you to work offline. [Grants.gov](#) recommends submitting your application package 24–48 hours before the closing date to give you time to correct any potential technical issues that disrupt your initial application submission.

You must complete several registration steps before you can submit your application. **Please review the requirements for submitting an application and take steps early to be ready to submit your application by the June 21 deadline.**

Registrations must be current and in place at the time you submit your application, including these:

- System for Award Management (SAM) registration
- Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) registration
- Grants.gov registration by an authorized official representative

A copy of the grant package will also be available on the [Forest Service Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry GLRI Web site](#). Be sure to fill out the Project Narrative Supplement and all Federal forms. Other formats will not be accepted.

Applications no longer require the documented support of State Foresters. However, you are encouraged to work with your State forestry agency and research how your project fits into the goals and objectives of the State Forest Action Plan. [View a list of State Foresters](#).

Complete application packages will include the following:

Required forms available through the grants.gov application package:

- [SF-424 Application for Federal Assistance](#)
- [SF-424A Budget Information Nonconstruction](#)
- [SF-424B Assurances, and Nonconstruction and Certification forms](#)
- [Attachments Form](#) (must be included in the application package in order to attach additional forms below).

Required forms available through the grants.gov application package only if applicable:

- Submit [SF-LLL](#) for entities that do lobby
- [AD-3030](#) (Representations Regarding Felony Conviction and Tax Delinquent Status for Corporate Applicants) if applicable (recipient will determine if form applies to them)

Required agency-specific forms to be submitted by uploading through the [Attachments Form](#) available through the grants.gov application package:

- [Project Narrative Supplement Form](#), including detailed budget supporting the SF-424A
- [FS-1500-35](#) for entities that do not lobby (only if applicable) (needs to be added to NA web site)
- [AD-1047](#) (Certification Regarding Debarment and Suspension)
- [AD-1049](#) (Certification Regarding Drug-Free Workplace for all non-State entities) **OR...** [AD-1052](#) (Certification Regarding Drug-Free Workplace for “State and State Agencies”)
- Project site location map as a PDF using the [mapping tool and instructions provided](#)
- [Three-year maintenance plan for planted trees](#) (Note: You can use this template or your own form, whichever is most convenient.)
- Statement of Key Personnel Qualifications for those who will be working on the proposal

Customer Support: [Grants.gov](#) provides customer support via toll-free number 800-518-4726 and email at support@grants.gov. For questions related to the specific grant opportunity, contact the number listed in the application package of the grant you are applying for.

Important Dates

- **Thursday, May 5, 2016, 2:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time** – Webinar to discuss the RFP. We will walk through the purpose of the grant program areas, eligibility, and how to apply. <https://usfs.adobeconnect.com/na-ucf-500/>
Please dial 888-844-9904; Passcode 6611078#
- **Tuesday, June 21, 2016** – Applications must be submitted to the U.S. Forest Service through [grants.gov](#) by 5:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time.
- **September 2016** – U.S. Forest Service expects to notify all applicants regarding whether they have been selected as recipients

Collaboration

You are encouraged to contact and collaborate with State Foresters and/or Tribal Administrators.

General Questions

[Phillip Rodbell](mailto:Phillip.Rodbell@FS.FED.US) (GLRI@FS.FED.US) 610-577-4133

If you have questions regarding the types of projects or components that can be considered, please contact your respective Field Office Representative:

- New York:
Constance Carpenter, Durham Field Office Rep. 603-868-7694, conniecarpenter@fs.fed.us
- Ohio and Pennsylvania:
Robert Lueckel, Morgantown Field Office Rep. 304-285-1540, rlueckel@fs.fed.us
- Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois, and Indiana:
Carleen Yocum, St. Paul Field Office Rep., 651-649-5276, cyocum@fs.fed.us

Project Narrative Supplement Form Instructions
FY2016 U.S. Forest Service
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Register and apply through [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) using these instructions. These are required fields of information:

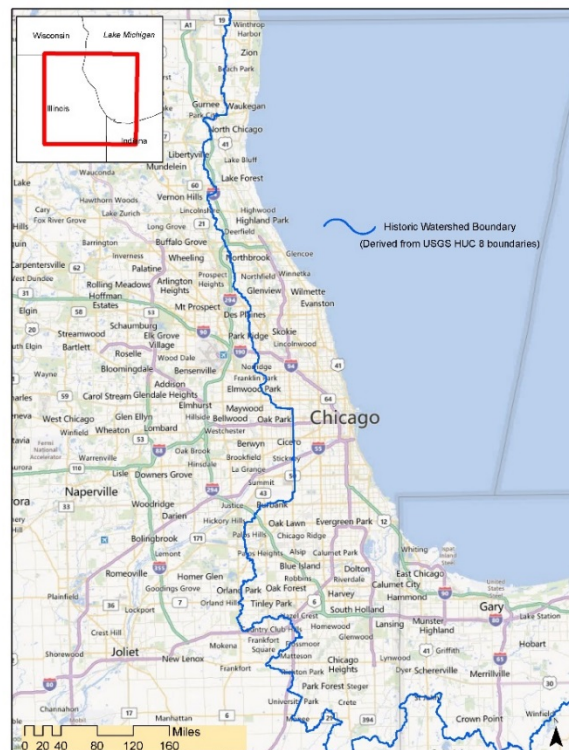
- Short Title:** Provide a short title for future reference to the project. This must be the same title used on the SF-424 Application for Federal Assistance.
- Program Area:** Identify the GLRI Program Area your proposal addresses (choose one).
- Project Duration:** Projected starting and ending dates, not to exceed 2 years from date of award.
- Project Overview:** Provide a short summary of the project that includes the scope, location, expected accomplishments, and water quality benefits.
- Priority Landscape:** Provide information on the site location and its connection to a target water body, identifying local watershed plans and links to the State Forest Action Plan, Great Lakes Action Plan, Lakewide Action and Management Plan, or Remedial Action Plans. Attach a site map using the [mapping tool provided](#).
- Scope of Work:** Provide a narrative that outlines the methods proposed and specifically addresses project benefits and impacts on water quality and species diversity as part of a local watershed plan within the Great Lakes basin. Planting efforts follow [Guidance for Landscape Tree Planting](#) (attach a 3-year tree maintenance plan in [grants.gov](#)).
- Outcomes/Outputs** Clearly list specific outcomes and outputs from the project: specify the estimated number and size of trees planted, acres treated, and/or gallons of runoff water avoided using standards provided.
- Partners:** List and/or describe any partners who will be materially involved and their specific roles and contract amounts, if relevant. Attach letters of support in [grants.gov](#), as appropriate.
- Timeline:** Provide a brief, approximate schedule showing intermediate steps and major milestones. Please indicate if a specific start date is critical. Project timeline is not to exceed 2 years from the date of award.
- Qualifications:** Include names and titles of project personnel. Attach a separate Statement of Key Personnel Qualifications that describes in more detail the experience and training of project personnel and any past experience with similar projects.
- Budget Justification:** Provide a description of budget items not clearly identified in the scope of work or measurable results, including personnel, travel, supplies, equipment, indirect costs, and other, included in the SF-424A.

Appendix A. Great Lakes Watershed Map FY2016 U.S. Forest Service Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI)



Map Inset for Illinois and Indiana

In Illinois and Indiana, for purposes of this RFP, the Great Lakes Basin includes the historic watersheds of the North Shore channel, Chicago, and Little Calumet Rivers. This description was provided by EPA and supported by the IL DNR.



Appendix B. Counties Wholly or Partially in Great Lakes Watershed
FY2016 U.S. Forest Service
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Counties Wholly in the Great Lakes Watershed

Indiana

DeKalb
LaGrange
Steuben

Michigan

Alcona	Clare	Iosco	Marquette	Oscoda
Alger	Clinton	Isabella	Mason	Otsego
Allegan	Crawford	Jackson	Mecosta	Ottawa
Alpena	Delta	Kalamazoo	Menominee	Presque Isle
Antrim	Dickinson	Kalkaska	Midland	Roscommon
Arenac	Eaton	Kent	Missaukee	Saginaw
Baraga	Emmet	Keweenaw	Monroe	St. Clair
Barry	Genesee	Lake	Montcalm	St. Joseph
Bay	Gladwin	Lapeer	Montmorency	Sanilac
Benzie	Grand Traverse	Leelanau	Muskegon	Schoolcraft
Branch	Gratiot	Lenawee	Newaygo	Shiawassee
Calhoun	Hillsdale	Livingston	Oakland	Tuscola
Cass	Houghton	Luce	Oceana	Van Buren
Charlevoix	Huron	Mackinac	Ogemaw	Washtenaw
Cheboygan	Ingham	Macomb	Ontonagon	Wayne
Chippewa	Ionia	Manistee	Osceola	Wexford

New York

Erie	Orleans
Genesee	Oswego
Jefferson	Seneca
Monroe	Wayne
Niagara	Wyoming

Ohio

Cuyahoga	Henry	Ottawa	Van Wert
Defiance	Huron	Paulding	Williams
Erie	Lake	Putnam	Wood
Fulton	Lorain	Sandusky	
Hancock	Lucas	Seneca	

Wisconsin

Brown	Florence	Marinette	Outagamie	Waupaca
Calumet	Kewaunee	Menominee	Ozaukee	Winnebago
Door	Manitowoc	Oconto	Sheboygan	

Counties Partially in the Great Lakes Watershed

Illinois

Cook
Lake

Indiana

Adams	LaPorte
Allen	Noble
Elkhart	Porter
Kosciusko	St. Joseph
Lake	Wells

Michigan

Berrien
Gogebic
Iron

Minnesota

Aitkin	Pine
Carlton	St. Louis
Cook	
Itasca	
Lake	

New York

Allegany	Cortland	Lewis	Ontario	Tompkins
Cattaraugus	Essex	Livingston	Schuyler	Yates
Cayuga	Franklin	Madison	St. Lawrence	
Chautauqua	Hamilton	Oneida	Steuben	
Chemung	Herkimer	Onondaga	Tioga	

Ohio

Allen	Geauga	Portage	Trumbull
Ashland	Hardin	Richland	Wyandot
Ashtabula	Marion	Shelby	
Auglaize	Medina	Stark	
Crawford	Mercer	Summit	

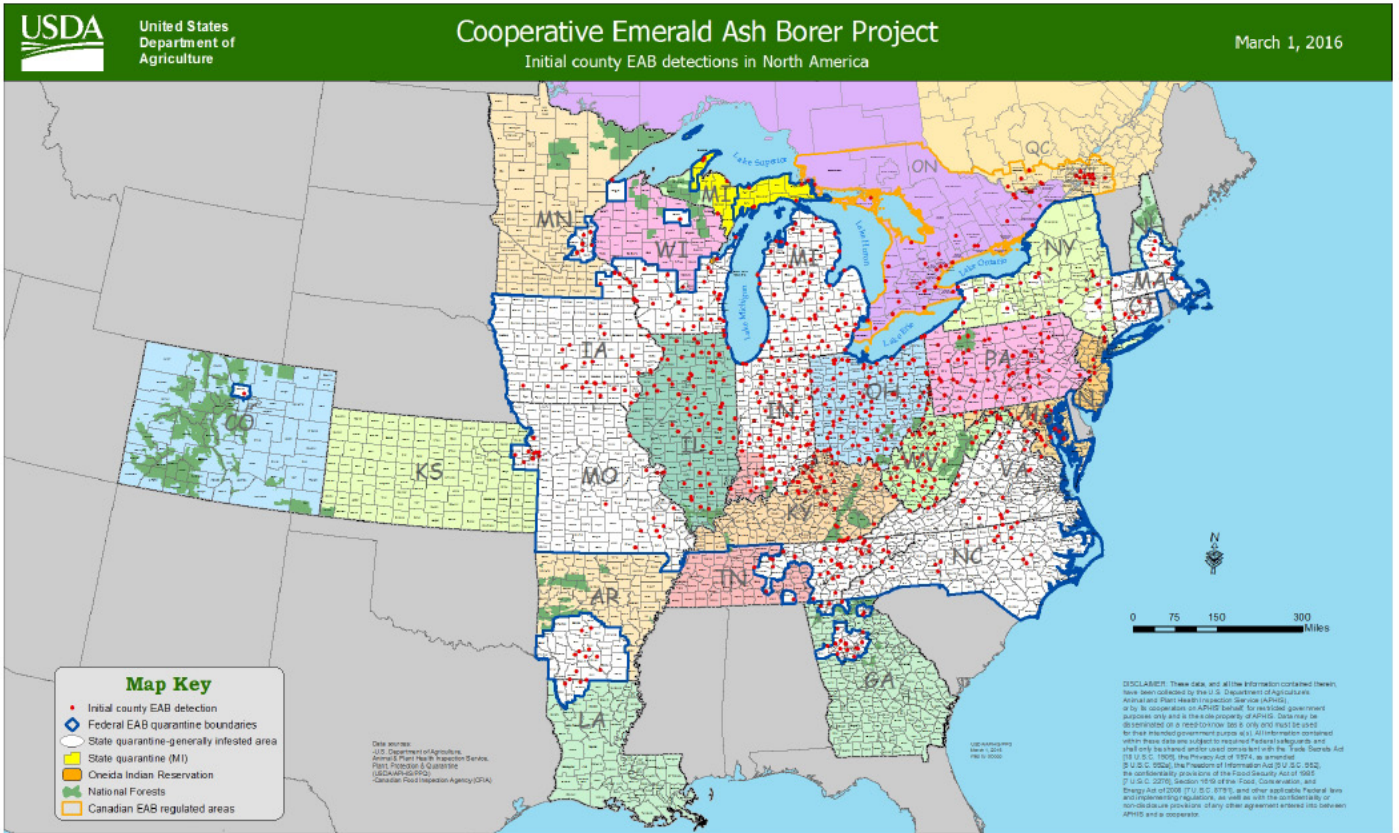
Pennsylvania

Crawford
Erie
Potter

Wisconsin

Adams	Douglas	Kenosha	Oneida	Washington
Ashland	Fond du Lac	Langlade	Portage	Waukesha
Bayfield	Forest	Marathon	Racine	Waushara
Columbia	Green Lake	Marquette	Shawano	
Dodge	Iron	Milwaukee	Vilas	

Appendix C. EAB Detections in North America
FY2016 U.S. Forest Service
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Source: http://www.emeraldashborer.info/files/MultiState_EABpos.pdf

Appendix D. List of EAB Quarantine Counties in the Great Lakes Basin
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<u>Illinois</u>	<u>Indiana</u>			
Cook	Adams	Kosciusko	Noble	Wells
Lake	Allen	LaGrange	Porter	
	DeKalb	LaPorte	St. Joseph	
	Elkhart	Lake	Steuben	
<u>Michigan</u>				
Alcona	Claire	Iosco	Marquette	Ottawa
Alger	Clinton	Isabella	Mason	Presque Isle
Allegan	Crawford	Jackson	Mecosta	Roscommon
Alpena	Delta	Kalamazoo	Midland	Saginaw
Antrim	Dickenson	Kalkaska	Missaukee	Sanilac
Arenac	Eaton	Kent	Monroe	Schoolcraft
Barry	Emmet	Keweenaw	Montcalm	Shiawassee
Bay	Genesee	Lake	Montmorenc	St. Clair
Benzie	Gladwin	Lapeer	Muskegon	St. Joseph
Berrien	Grand Traverse	Leelanau	Newaygo	Tuscola
Branch	Gratiot	Lenawee	Oakland	Van Buren
Calhoun	Hillsdale	Livingston	Oceana	Washtenaw
Cass	Houghton	Luce	Ogemaw	Wayne
Charlevoix	Huron	Mackinac	Osceola	Wexford
Cheboygan	Ingham	Macomb	Oscoda	
Chippewa	Ionia	Manistee	Otsego	
<u>New York</u>				
Allegany	Erie	Niagara	Steuben	
Cattaraugus	Genesee	Ontario	Wayne	
Chautauqua	Livingston	Onondaga	Wyoming	
Chemung	Madison	Orleans	Yates	
Cortland	Monroe	Schuyler		
<u>Ohio</u>				
Allen	Erie	Lake	Paulding	Stark
Ashland	Fulton	Lorain	Portage	Summit
Ashtabula	Geauga	Lucas	Putnam	Trumbull
Auglaize	Hancock	Marion	Richland	Van Wert
Crawford	Hardin	Medina	Sandusky	Williams
Cuyahoga	Henry	Mercer	Seneca	Wood
Defiance	Huron	Ottawa	Shelby	Wyandot
<u>Pennsylvania</u>				
Crawford	Erie	Potter		
<u>Wisconsin</u>				
Brown	Dodge	Ozaukee	Washington	
Douglas	Kenosha	Racine	Waukesha	
Fond du Lac	Milwaukee	Sheboygan	Winnebago	